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December 21, 2007

Federal Election Commission 999 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20463

Re MUR 5955

RESPONSE BY RESPONDENTS MICHAEL RAMSEIER, JANIE RAMSEIER, STEVE MELODY, JOAN MELODY, AND ROSARIO CHAVEZ

On or about December 10, 2007, each of the above named individuals received a letter from Jeff Jordan notifying them that they had been named in a complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission. The respondents hereby request that no action be taken against them in response to the complaint.

Factual Background

Michael Ramseier, Steve Melody, and Rosano Chavez ("employee respondents") are employees of WellPoint, Inc. Jame Ramseier is the wife of Michael Ramseier and Joan Melody is the wife of Steve Melody

On May 1 and May 2, 2007, the employee respondents attended a Latino Coalition conference in Washington, DC on behalf of WellPoint Rudy Giuliani was scheduled to speak at the conference. Jame Ramseier and Joan Melody did not accompany their spouses to Washington, DC.

The employee respondents' supervisor, Jose "Josh" Valdez," requested that they attend a private event on May 1, 2007 that would allow them to meet Mr. Gruham. When the request was made, the employee respondents were not told that the private event was a fundraiser for the Rudy Gruham Presidential Committee.

Upon arriving at the private Oruliani event, the employee respondents were instructed to contribute to the Giuliani campaign. Also, Mr. Valdez instructed Mr. Ramseier and Mr. Melody to contribute on behalf of their spouses.

All three employee respondents untually refused to make contributions and protested that they did not wish to contribute to the Giuliam campaign.

Mr Valdez informed each employee respondent that he would personally reimburse them for their contributions. None of the respondents was swere that permitting their names to be used by Mr. Valdez to make contributions was potentially illegal. Further, Mr. Valdez assured the employee respondents that it was permissible to have their names used in making a contribution

In September 2007, WellPoint interviewed the employee respondents regarding the circumstances surrounding this event

The respondents have fully cooperated with WellPoint during its investigation of this matter, and they similarly intend to cooperate with the FEC

No violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act has been alleged

The complaint does not allege that the above named respondents have violated the Federal Election Campaign Act ("PLCA," "the Act")

FECA prohibits the making of a contribution in the name of another. In addition, the Act states that "no person shall knowingly permut his name to be used to effect such a contribution." (emphasis added) 2 U S C 441f The employee respondents in this matter did not permit their names to be used to effect a contribution made in the name of another. Rather, they were required by their supervisor to engage in activities with which they disagreed. An individual who is required to participate in a potentially illegal scheme cannot be held liable for his or her action. This individual is more properly described as a victim or a witness. This is particularly true in this case, in which the respondents have consistently and truthfully detailed the misconduct by Mr Valdez and are willing to continue to cooperate in any investigation conducted by the FEC

Because no violation of FECA has been alleged, the Commission should take no further action against any of the above named respondents

Any alleged violations do not warrant the use of the Commussion's limited resources

Even if the violations alleged in the complaint are true, they are not significant enough to warrant the use of the Commission's limited resources

It has been alleged that the respondents allowed their names to be used to effect a contribution made in the name of another. However, upon discovering that their actions were potentially unlawful, the respondents immediately acted to reverse any wrongdoing. The respondents cooperated fully with the WellPoint investigation and were instrumental in communicating the facts to the Gruitary campaign

The respondents agree to cooperate and provide testimony and additional evidence regarding these events to the Commission. Given the cooperation of the respondents and their actions, the further investigation of the respondents is not warranted



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